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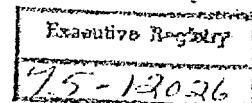
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75-12026

DDI-3264-75

October 23, 1975

Mr. William E. Colby  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Colby:

Enclosed is an article which appeared in the "New York Times" on September 19, 1975, which I call to your attention. Over the past months I have read similar articles to the effect that some 20,000 Vietcong had penetrated the South Vietnamese military. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am naturally interested in ascertaining the facts behind such allegations, and in this regard would request a comprehensive report and evaluation from C.I.A. as to the extent of communist subversion and infiltration of the military forces and government of South Vietnam.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this request and look forward to receiving your full and detailed report.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Richard H. Ichord  
Member of Congress

RHI:slm  
Enclosure

Several months before the actual raid, the article said, he had received secret orders "to take advantage of any opportunity to bomb Thieu's Independence Palace and then fly to the liberated zone." Several times after he informed his contact that he would carry out the attack, his unit was moved too far from the Saigon area.

The pilot's name was Dinh Thanh Trung, the article said, and after his father, a district party secretary, was killed in 1963 in a Government attack in the Mekong Delta, he adopted the alias of Nguyen Thanh Trung. The alteration was made by "a close comrade" of his father's who also arranged to doctor their life stories.

#### Examined For A Year

Six years after the death of Mr. Trung's father, the article related, a Communist agent, identified only as "graying Comrade K," told him to enlist in the South Vietnamese Air Force. At the time he was a science student at Saigon University.

Mr. Trung's background and qualifications were examined for a year, the article said, and after that he was accepted.

The article reported that on the morning of the attack Mr. Trung was not scheduled to fly but volunteered at the last minute to fill in for another pilot who usually came to work late because his home was in Saigon and the squadron was based in Bien Hoa, 40 minutes drive away.

Most of the bombs missed the palace, the article conceded, but said it was because the pilot "wanted to avoid the servants' quarters."

After the fall of Saigon on April 30, Mr. Trung was reunited with his mother. She had never been told that he was working for the Communists.

*N.Y. Times*  
9-19-75

## PILOT FOR SAIGON CALLED RED AGENT

Bombed Thieu Palace in Last Days—Trained in U.S.

By FOX BUTTERFIELD  
Special to The New York Times

HONG KONG, Sept. 18.—The South Vietnamese Air Force pilot who unexpectedly bombed the presidential palace in Saigon last April was the son of a Vietcong official and had been a secret Communist agent for years, according to a Communist newspaper that has become available here.

At the time it was widely believed the pilot was infuriated at President Nguyen Van Thieu because his wife and baby were left behind when Da Nang was abandoned to advancing Communist troops without a fight.

President Thieu escaped unharmed in the attack involving an American-made F-5E jet fighter, but the incident added to the sense of panic in Saigon that eventually helped destroy the Thieu Government.

If accurate, the account in the Communist paper, South Vietnam—The Struggle, gives a rare glimpse into the workings of the Vietcong's secret apparatus.

#### "Lot of Comedy to Act"

According to the paper, which is described as the central organ of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front, the pilot had had "a lot of comedy to act," especially during two years he spent in the United States for training.

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